(a) the details of target groups identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh and provided information on bio-fuels during the last two years;

(b) whether Detailed Project Report prepared by TERI has been placed before Planning Commission for its approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development, which is the nodal Ministry for implementation of the proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel has submitted the detailed project report prepared by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to the Planning Commission for their approval. It is premature to identify any target groups for implementation of the Mission as the Mission has not received all necessary approvals as laid down in Government procedures.

Foreign companies in oil exploration

†900. DR. CHHATTARPAL SINGH LODHA:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreign companies have applied for exploration of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Under the fifth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-V), 69 bids for 20 blocks (18 bids for deep water blocks, 7 bids for 2 shallow water blocks and 44 bids for 12 onland blocks) were received. A total of 27 foreign companies and 21 Indian companies (8 public sector undertakings and 13 private sector undertakings) have submitted their bids. The awards have been made on 18 blocks as per details given in the Statement (*See* below). The Production Sharing Contracts will be signed with the awardee companies after finalisation of the PSCs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details of foreign companies engaged in exploration

The Block-wise awardee of Exploration Blocks are as under:—

Name of Block	Awardee
Deepwater Blocks	
KK-DWN-2003/1	Reliance Industries Ltd.
KK-DWN-2003/2	Reliance Industries Ltd.
KG-DWN-2003/1	Reliance Industries Ltd.-Hardy Exploration & Production India Inc.
MN-DWN-2003/1	Reliance Industries Ltd.-Niko Resources (NELP-V) Ltd.
KN-DWN-2003/1	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
AN-DWN-2003/2	ENI India Ltd.-Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.-Gas Authority of India Limited
Shallow Water Blocks	
CB-OSN-2003/1	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
GS-OSN-2003/1	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.-Cairn Energy (7) Ltd.
Onland Blocks	
AA-ONN-2003/3	Oil India Limited-Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.
GV-ONN-2003/1	Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd., Cairn Exploration (No.1) Ltd.-ONGC
VN-ONN-2003/1	Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd., Cairn Energy (6) Limited-ONGC
RJ-ONN-2003/1	ENI India Limited- Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.-Cairn Energy (2) Limited
RJ-ONN-2003/2	Phoenix Overseas Ltd.-Birckbeck Investment Ltd.

Name of Block	Awardee
CB-ONN-2003/1 Part-A&B	Reliance Industries Ltd.
CB-ONN-2003/2	Gujarat State Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.-Gas Authority of India Limited-Jubilant Capital Pvt. Ltd.-Geo Global Resources Ltd.
DS-ONN-2003/1	Geo Global Resources
KG-ONN-2003/1	Cairn Energy India Limited-Cairn Energy (4) Limited-Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
CY-ONN-2003/1	Niko Resources (NELP-V) Ltd.

In respect of 2 blocks namely AA-ONN-2003/1 and AA-ONN-2003/2, certain representations raising legal issues have been received and they are being examined in the Government.

Demand for natural gas

†901. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for natural gas is increasing continuously in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the average annual increase in its demand for last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of gas as well as its demand have been on rise;

(d) if so, its price in the country in March, 2002 and during July, 2005 respectively; and

(e) the names of institutions which are engaged in the trade of gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) There is a demand-supply gap in the gas market in India. The following table gives a comparison of the projected

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.